

What is claimed is:

1. An architecture for a telecommunications device, comprising:
 - a plurality of operational modules; and
 - a plurality of application interfaces (API), each API providing functionality for one of the plurality of operational modules, wherein each API is broadly defined to allow operation of multiple driver sets depending upon a desired driver for the system.
2. The architecture of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of interfaces supports a plurality of different drivers, and wherein the at least one of the plurality of interfaces comprises:
 - a first portion of information common to each of the plurality of different drivers; and
 - a second portion of information specific to one of the plurality of different drivers.
3. An architecture for a telecommunications transport device, comprising:
 - an application layer;
 - a framework layer;
 - a hardware driver layer; and
 - a plurality of interfaces, an interface between each layer and each other layer, the plurality of interfaces providing interaction between the layers.
4. The architecture of claim 3, wherein each of the plurality of interfaces supports a broadly defined set of operations within a predefined category of operations.
5. The architecture of claim 3, wherein at least one of the plurality of interfaces supports a plurality of different drivers, and wherein the at least one of the plurality of interfaces comprises:

a first portion of information common to each of the plurality of different drivers; and

a second portion of information specific to one of the plurality of different drivers.

6. An architecture for a telecommunications device, comprising:
 - an application layer;
 - a framework layer; and
 - a hardware layer, the layers connected through a plurality of interfaces between each layer and each other layer, wherein the architecture further comprises:
 - a plurality of modules, each module capable of performing a function of the system.
7. A modular architecture for a telecommunications system, comprising:
 - a plurality of function modules, each function module supported by a driver set; and
 - a plurality of application interfaces, each application interface broadly defined to support the driver set for its respective function module.
8. A method for defining a telecommunications system architecture, comprising:
 - defining a plurality of driver sets, a driver set for each of a plurality of functions of the system, each of the plurality of driver sets supporting at least one driver for a respective function module;
 - selecting a subset of the plurality of system functions; and
 - applying one of the at least one driver of each driver set to its respective function module through an application interface layer between the driver and the function module.
9. The method of claim 8, and further comprising:

changing the driver applied to a function module without changing the application interface.

10. A method of making configuration changes in a telecommunications system, comprising:

defining a plurality of application interfaces, each application interface facilitating communication between a driver set and a function module of the system, wherein each of the application interfaces supports a broadly defined set of operations within a predefined category of operations for a function module;

selecting a driver from the driver set for each of the function modules; and

applying the selected driver to its respective function module through its respective application interface.

11. A method of operating telecommunications system, comprising:

defining a plurality of application interfaces, each application interface providing an interface between a driver module and the system; and

applying one of a set of drivers to each of the plurality of application interfaces depending upon a predetermined driver need.

12. The method of operating a telecommunications system of claim 11, wherein applying one of a set of drivers is seamless to a user of the system.

13. The method of operating a telecommunications system of claim 11, wherein defining further comprises:

generating a set of common instructions for each of the drivers in the set of drivers, the common instructions applicable to each of the drivers of the set of drivers; and

generating a plurality of sets of non-common instructions, a set of non-common instructions for each of the drivers in the set of drivers.

14. A machine readable medium having machine readable instructions for causing a computer to perform a method comprising:

defining a plurality of application interfaces, each application interface providing an interface between a driver module and the system; and

applying one of a set of drivers to each of the plurality of application interfaces depending upon a predetermined driver need.

15. The machine readable medium of claim 14, wherein applying one of a set of drivers is seamless to a user of the system.

16. A method of communicating between a plurality of individual modules in a telecommunications system, comprising:

defining a driver layer containing a plurality of drivers for a plurality of system modules, wherein each of the system modules performs a specific system operation;

defining a plurality of application interfaces, an application interface between one of the plurality of drivers in the driver layer of the system and one of the system modules, each application interface defined to support a predetermined set of system functions.